

# SOCIOLOGY 100A, INTRODUCTION TO SOCIOLOGY HONORS PROGRAM

## COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Class meets Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9 to 10:15

Instructor: Michael Weinstein, Associate Professor of Sociology

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Office hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 1:30 to 2:45, and by appointment; please feel free to call.

As introductory sociology this course has the goal of developing for each student a "sociological imagination," that is, an ability to link the personal situation of each individual to the social patterns of community and society. As an honors class students are expected to take on the responsibility of learning from and for one another, so class members will have the opportunity to develop some aspects of that community and society right in our own classroom. (Once or twice during the semester we will hold "Seminar Paper Day," when students will read one another's papers.)

We will examine and explain basic concepts, theories, and strategies of sociological data collection and analysis, and apply them to issues in our backgrounds as well as to the current events of our personal and public lives. Further, we will examine the place of agency and intention in social life, and how people consciously and unconsciously construct social realities.

It is important for students to attend class, keep up with what's going on (in class and in the world), and ask lots of questions (even if we do not have answers). The formal assignment is to write lots of papers, of various lengths, in diverse formats, as often as you can, on anything of relevance. (Students may learn that any topic can be made relevant, in several ways.) The point is to demonstrate that you are learning sociology and are engaged, or even inspired, by it. There is the specific assignment for the final exam essay, "what did you learn this semester?," so students are encouraged to keep track with good class notes and a personal journal.

In addition to a conventional sociology text book, students should consider as text material the regular reading of local daily newspapers and a weekly newsmagazine, for contemporary data and applications of the ideas of the course. (We have a deal on student rates for Newsweek, and other publications are also fine.) Also watch the TV news, local and national, for the same reasons. Actually, just about anything you read, observe, and do, including materials and experiences in your other courses, can be relevant resource material for our sociology course!

Required texts: Anthony Giddens, Mitchell Duneier, Richard Appelbaum, and Deborah Carr,  
Essentials of Sociology, Second Edition, W.W. Norton, 2008.

The current Star-Advertiser preceding each class.

TENTATIVE SYLLABUS:

Week 1, Handouts, Q's, order magazines. Read the whole text as soon as possible!

Week 2, CHAPTER 1, Sociology and Method

Week 3, CHAPTER 2, Culture and Society

Week 4, CHAPTER 3, Socialization and the Life Cycle, and Aging

Week 5, CHAPTER 4, Social Interaction and Everyday Life

Week 6, CHAPTER 5, Groups, Networks, Organizations

Week 7, CHAPTER 6, Conformity, Deviance, and Crime

Week 8, CHAPTER 7, Stratification, Class, and Inequality

Week 9, CHAPTER 8, Global Inequality, & CHAPTER 9, Gender Inequality

Week 10, CHAPTER 10, Ethnicity and Race

Week 11, CHAPTER 11, Families and Intimate Relationships

Week 12, CHAPTER 12, Education and Religion

Week 13, CHAPTER 13, Politics and Economic Life

Week 14, CHAPTER 14, The Sociology of the Body: Health, Illness, and Sexuality

Week 15, CHAPTER 15, Urbanization, Population, and the Environment, &  
CHAPTER 16, Globalization IN A Changing World

Week 16, Futures, speculations, conclusions, and evaluations

SOC 100 FINAL EXAM ESSAY IS DUE DURING FINAL EXAM WEEK BUT MAY BE TURNED IN DURING THE LAST WEEK OF CLASSES

#### **KOKUA ANNOUNCEMENT:**

Any student who feels s/he may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability is invited to contact me privately. I would be happy to work with you, and the KOKUA Program (Office for Students with Disabilities) to ensure reasonable accommodations in my course. KOKUA can be reached at (808) 956-7511 or (808) 956-7612 (voice/text) in room 013 of the Queen Lili'uokalani Center for Student Services.

**PLAGIARISM ANNOUNCEMENT:** The following definition of plagiarism comes from the UH-Manoa Student Conduct Code:

Plagiarism includes but is not limited to submitting, in fulfillment of an academic requirement, any work that has been copied in whole or in part from another individual's work without attributing that borrowed portion to the individual; neglecting to identify as a quotation another's idea and particular phrasing that was not assimilated into the student's language and style or

paraphrasing a passage so that the reader is misled as to the source; submitting the same written or oral or artistic material in more than one course without obtaining authorization from the instructors involved; or "drylabbing," which includes obtaining and using experimental data and laboratory write-ups from other sections of a course or from previous terms. From the University of Hawai'i at Manoa Student Conduct Code (1992), p. 6.

It is ultimately each student's responsibility to learn about plagiarism and how to avoid it. Ignorance of the rules, saying "I forgot about that" or "I made a mistake" are not considered valid excuses when it comes to plagiarism.

REGARDING THIS SYLLABUS ON THE WEB: Students: Please be advised that this syllabus is provided for informational purposes only. YOU SHOULD NOT PURCHASE ANY BOOKS OR MATERIALS ON THE BASIS OF THIS SYLLABUS AS IT MAY CHANGE PRIOR TO THE FIRST DAY OF CLASS. Please wait until the first day of instruction at which time you will be given the final version of the syllabus.